

CLAIMS

1. (Original) Use of Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBA) or a homologue or a derivative thereof, as an anti-fungal wood preservative active ingredient.
2. (Original) Use according to claim 1, wherein the homologues are selected from Tetrabromobisphenol E, Tetrabromobisphenol F, Tetrabromobisphenol Z and Tetrabromobisphenol S.
3. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein TBBA or a homologue of TBBA is substituted by a substituent other than bromine, either on one or both phenyl rings, or at the bridge.
4. (Original) Use according to claim 1, wherein TBBA or its homologue or derivative is solubilized in an organic or aqueous solvent.
5. (Original) Use according to claim 4, wherein the solvent is an organic solvent selected from alcohols, e.g. ethanol, hydrocarbons, toluene and ketones.
6. (Original) Use according to claim 4, wherein the solution comprises, in addition to water, sodium hydroxide (NaOH), and sodium dithionite ( $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_4$ ).
7. (Original) Use according to claim 1, wherein the TBBA or its homologue or derivative is provided in an emulsion.

8. (Original) Use according to claim 7, wherein the emulsion comprises, in addition to water, Butyl Lactate, and NP -15.

9. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 6 ~~or 8~~, wherein the concentration of TBBA, or an homologue or derivative thereof is up to 40% (W/W).

10. (Original) Use according to claim 9, wherein the concentration of TBBA, or an homologue or derivative thereof, is in the range of 0.01% -20% (W/W).

11. (Original) A fungicidal wood preservative composition comprising an active ingredient selected from Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBA) and homologues and derivatives thereof.

12. (Original) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the homologues are selected from Tetrabromobisphenol E, Tetrabromobisphenol F, Tetrabromobisphenol Z and Tetrabromobisphenol S.

13. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~, wherein TBBA or a homologue of TBBA is substituted by a substituent other than bromine, either on one or both phenyl rings, or at the bridge.

14. (Original) A composition according to claim 11, wherein TBBA or its homologue or derivative is solubilized in

an organic or aqueous solvent.

15. (Original) A composition according to claim 14, wherein the solvent is an organic solvent selected from alcohols, e.g. ethanol, hydrocarbons, toluene and ketones .

16. (Original) A composition according to claim 14, wherein the solution comprises, in addition to water, sodium hydroxide (NaOH), and sodium dithionite ( $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_4$ ).

17. (Original) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the TBBA or its homologue or derivative is provided in an emulsion.

18. (Original) A composition according to claim 17, wherein the emulsion comprises, in addition to water, Butyl Lactate, and NP-15.

19. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claims 16 ~~or 18~~, wherein the concentration of TBBA, or an homologue or derivative thereof is up to 40% (W/W).

20. (Original) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the concentration of TBBA, or an homologue or derivative thereof, is in the range of 0.01% -20% (W/W).

21. (Original) A fungicidal wood preservative according to claim 11, comprising TBBA, or an homologue or derivative thereof, as the active ingredient.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for preserving wood, comprising impregnating wood with a solution comprising a compound selected from Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBA) and homologues and derivatives thereof ~~according to claim 11~~ as an active ingredient.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for preserving wood, comprising impregnating wood with a composition selected from Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBA) and homologues and derivatives thereof ~~according to any one of claims 11 to 21~~, wherein the ~~specimens have~~ wood has been pressure-treated.

24. (Currently Amended) A wood product, preserved by impregnation with a compound selected from Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBA) and homologues and derivatives thereof ~~according to claim 11~~.